

Lincoln School Parents' Association Meeting Minutes – March 17, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes from the LSPA meeting held on February 11, 2009 were distributed and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's February report was reviewed and approved. February was a quiet month for LSPA expenses and revenue. The opening balance on 2/1/09 was \$47,679.98 and the closing balance on 2/28/09 was \$46,230.93. The revenue from Target this month was \$208.05. Please refer to the Treasurer's Report for further detail about revenue and expenses.

Co-Presidents' Report:

Kathy Kennedy, kindergarten teacher at Lincoln, has requested approximately \$200.00 from the LSPA to purchase math back packs/supplies. A vote was taken and \$200.00 was approved for Kathy Kennedy to purchase the math supplies.

Enrichment Program:

Laura Krotky described the "Johnny the K" Enrichment program. The cost is \$675.00 for one show and an additional \$300.00 for a second show. If approved, the theme for the program this year will be bullying. He has dates available in May. A vote was taken and \$975.00 was approved for two shows.

Stand for Children:

Jeanette Kolodziej reported on the upcoming Stand for Children State House Rally on March 24 at 10:00 am. All children deserve a quality education. Stand for Children challenges legislators to develop creative solutions to fund schools and to find local revenue options to keep schools open. A bus will be leaving from Winchester for the rally at 9:00 am and will return at 12:30 pm. Jeanette distributed postcards for parents to join and support Stand for Children the State House. The goal is to have 500 signed postcards returned from Winchester and presented at the rally.

Principal's Report:

Possible Book Swap. Kate Scanlon reported that Lynch Elementary School recently held a successful "book swap". There was discussion at the meeting about whether Lincoln School should have a similar event. Kate will present further information on the Lynch book swap at the April LSPA meeting.

School Enrollment. It is projected that 11 additional students will attend Lincoln next school year. There will be 22 classes again next year, with 4 kindergarten classes. April 30th is kindergarten orientation.

Personnel. There is a new ISS staff member at Lincoln, Deborah Green. Kate is currently interviewing applicants for Andrea Cogan's replacement.

Read-A-Thon. The recent Read-A-Thon held at Lincoln was very successful.

Summer Enrichment Program. A summer enrichment program is being offered to Winchester students this summer. There will be special interest courses offered throughout the summer, such as a drumming course and a Legos course. Courses are taught by Winchester teachers and over 60 course proposals were submitted. A brochure describing the program and course offerings has been distributed to Lincoln students.

Dates. March 26th is an early release day. During that time, Lincoln School teachers will hold a professional development program. There will also be an after school assembly on March 26th from 11:45 to 1:00. The assembly will conclude the 5th grade Polar Bear Project. June 5th is Field Day. June 8th is the 5th grade Pool Party.

Special Presentations:

William McAlduff, Superintendent of Winchester Public Schools, made an informative presentation to the LSPA meeting. He was joined by three members of the Winchester School Committee: Sarah Swiger, Mark Schindelman, and Sarah Girotti. His goal is to visit the five Winchester Elementary Schools in order to inform parents about the budget process, enrollment and space issues, and plans for the next three years.

Highlights of Mr. McAlduff's presentation include the following:

Enrollment continues to grow. It is anticipated that 122 additional students will enter Winchester schools this coming school year. The high school enrollment is currently just under 1,100 students. It is projected that there will be 1,300 students in the year 2015. 83 new students entered Winchester elementary schools last year, with 60 being in kindergarten. 330 kindergarten students are projected for the coming school year.

Approximately 33 million dollars was recently proposed in the school budget. There will be a 5% increase in the budget this year and the town manager has proposed only a 2.5% increase the budget. This results in a gap of approximately \$880,000. The first funding priority for the district budget is additional staffing to cover the increase in enrollment and meeting special education requirements. In addition, the proposed budget includes an increase in library professional services at the elementary schools and an increase in technology spending (e.g., replace old equipment). Winchester will be receiving federal stimulus funding.

Lincoln will continue to have 22 classes next school year, with an increase of 5 or 6 students primarily in the 1st grade. There will be approximately 443 students at Lincoln in 2009-2010, with about 90 1st grade students. Average class size will be 20 students. Grade 3 will have approximately 22 students per class. It is projected that 455 students will attend Lincoln in 2010-2011 and so there will be a need for 24 classrooms. There are also "space challenges" at Muraco and Ambrose Schools. There may be a need to re-locate the Central Office Administration from Lynch school to another location in order to create 5 - 6 more classrooms. There is also a possibility that re-districting may need to be done in the future.

The high school needs major renovations in the science labs. In addition, windows need to be replaced and there needs to be an upgrade in the heating/AC/ventilation systems. The town has spent \$7 million on the high school in the last few years. Expenses included purchasing new doors and renovating bathrooms. The high school is designed to hold 1,500 - 1,600 students by square footage, but it is important to look also at the use of classrooms based on class schedules. The average class size as of 10/1/08 was 20.1. Two AP Physics classes had 34 and 38 students. High school teachers have an average caseload of 100-110 students.

The middle school has an average class size of 23-25 students. There will be 360 students in grade 6 next year, with 3.5 teams. The addition at McCall School is going smoothly and will be ready for classes in September.

Full day kindergarten was approved in Winchester for those parents who want it. Three extended days will be offered for kindergarten at a cost to parents of \$1,600. It is considered an extension of the day and no new curriculum will be taught during the extended day.

General Announcements:

The next LSPA meeting is scheduled for April 8th, at 8:30 am. All Lincoln school parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Margaret Pulsifer.